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CIA link forces prof to quit post

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — The director of Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies will resign that post in light of an investigation of his handling of CIA financial support for his work, a newspaper said yesterday.

Nadav Safran "would prefer to step down" as director at the end of the academic year, The Boston Globe said, quoting a university report by A. Michael Spence, dean of the faculty of arts and sciences.

Mr. Safran will remain at Harvard as a tenured professor, Mr. Spence said.

The report also concluded that the university was partly to blame for not taking action after Professor Safran informed Harvard officials of a CIA contract supporting his work, the Globe said.

The contract contained conditions that may have violated Harvard's rules on sponsored research, Mr. Spence said.

The six-page report, culminating a three-month investigation, was scheduled to be released today. Both Mr. Spence and Mr. Safran have declined comment until then, said the Globe, which had obtained a copy of the report earlier.

The case caused concern over CIA financing for research last fall after disclosures that Professor Safran had accepted, but not disclosed, more than \$45,000 from the CIA.